*Friday, September 21, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Luke 19:20-23 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: (21) For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. (22) And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: (23) Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? (KJV)

That word austere refers to rigid, rough, as well as harsh being mentioned. The devil has many believing and comparing our Lord with man’s standards and not in line with the love of God that was shed for mankind. The illustration above shows us someone who did not understand the love of God and was living in fear. Some people are afraid to move forward in their walk, and literally walk on eggshells rather than confidently and boldly stepping out in faith. What we see above is someone who ended up burying their talent rather than growing in knowledge and the love of God.

Romans 3:22-24 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (KJV)

Oh but I have sinned and fell short; well good, that puts you in the same place with all the other people, now it’s a matter of what you do next. Will you accept the love of God and His forgiveness, or will you run and hide your talent thinking ‘I don’t want to make any more mistakes’?

Psalms 103:8-10 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (9) He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. (10) He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. (KJV)

Our Lord desires a relationship with His people, and there is no reason to run and hide; rather you are dealing with a God of love, not of hate and anger.

Psalms 103:11-13 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (12) As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (13) Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. (KJV)

For those of you that are or have been parents, you work with your children not against them. What you do for them is done in love, because you understand them as children and have compassion toward them. Well so does our Father toward you also, now accept it and receive it into your heart and it will eliminate all fear.

Psalms 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. (KJV)

Hey the Lord knows you better than you do; in fact, He did a count of your hairs today and knows exactly how many or few you have left. God knows His creation; and yet all through His word He says that He loves us. Given the fact that He is a God who cannot lie, that should be good enough for you shouldn’t it?

Revelation 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (KJV)

Do you know why you were created in the first place? It was actually for Our Father’s pleasure, not out of anger. It gives our Father great pleasure when we accept His love and then reciprocate it to Him and His people in return.

3 John 1:2-4 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (3) For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. (4) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. (KJV)

The writer here is expressing the heart of God and what joy and pleasure it gives Him when His people walk in truth. The truth is Church that God loves you, and is willing to love you for all eternity. Why not just love Him in return?